



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

December 10, 2004

News Release

MEXICAN FUGITIVE RETURNED TO MEXICO BY ICE

Institutional Removal Program finds wanted man hiding under alias in U.S. jail

BROWNSVILLE, Texas-- A burglary and robbery suspected wanted in Mexico who was attempting to hide under a false identity in a U.S. jail was returned to Mexico Tuesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers here.

ICE Field Office Director Marc Moore, who leads detention and removal efforts in south Texas, said Gerardo Saucedo-Zuniga had been hiding in the Oakdale Correctional Facility under the alias "Gerardo Saucedo-Espinosa" when his true identity was determined.

Under ICE's Institutional Removal Program, officers identify incarcerated foreign citizens who are eligible for removal, initiate removal proceedings against the alien while they are still imprisoned, and then deport them as soon as they are released and before the alien can re-enter mainstream society.

Once Saucedo-Zuniga's identity was learned, ICE officers soon found that he was wanted by Mexico police to face charges in Coahuila, Mexico. They worked with the Mexican Attorney General's Office for Saucedo-Zuniga to be returned to Mexico. He was turned over to Mexican immigration authorities at the Gateway International Bridge here.

"This program keeps criminal aliens from ducking below the radar screen of law enforcement," said Moore. "We get tangible proof that this program works every time we deport a criminal or hand them over directly to our law enforcement partners in Mexico."

Moore explained that working with Mexico to identify individuals charged with criminal offenses in that country and helping bring criminals to justice is in the interest of public safety, especially along the border. "It's a fact that criminals try to exploit the border when they're on the run from the law," said Moore, "but our growing relationship with the Mexico Attorney General's Office is shutting down this avenue to criminals. Communities along our common border want justice served, not justice delayed, and this is one of the ways we offer safety to the public."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.